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QUERY CONTROL FORM			RTIS USE ONLY
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SPECIFICATION	
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i. Appendix	
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CLAIMS	
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**TO:** Examiner Don Fairchild  
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office  
Office of Publications

**FROM:** Edward A. Kmetz

**RE:** U.S. Application No. 10/052,383  
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Please deliver to Examiner D. Fairchild in Office of Publications.

Per your request, attached is a copy of page 53 of the specification for the above-identified application.

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be made different.

(The fifth preferred embodiment)

5 Figs. 18 to 24 illustrate a fifth preferred embodiment of the present invention.

In this embodiment, the supply of ink begins after the perfect formation of ink meniscus on the ink eject port of the nozzle 44 in the printing head 20a. If the action  
10 of supplying ink is performed under negative pressure in the reserve ink tank 20 as described in the above embodiments, without the formation of ink meniscus on the ink eject port, there is a possibility of drawing air from the nozzle 44 into the reserve ink tank 20.

15 For performing the action of supplying ink under negative pressure in the reserve ink tank 20 with more reliability, the present embodiment allows the formation of ink meniscus on the ink eject port by absorbing ink from the nozzle 44 before carrying out the supply of ink.  
20 Therefore, the supply of ink can be performed with more reliability by effectively using negative pressure in the reserve ink tank 20.

In the present embodiment, as shown in Fig. 19, an ink inlet 20b and a suction port 53b are formed on each of the  
25 reserve ink tanks 20Y, 20M, 20C, and 20B shown in Fig. 18. The reference numeral 201 (see Fig. 20) denotes supply joints connectable to the respective ink inlets 20b of the